



# THE Outlook

May 3, 2005

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## Task Force Rock rolls in

A convoy transporting fuel and Soldiers stops briefly during a light dust storm on its way to Forward Operating Base Lagman where the 2nd Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne) assumed command and control from the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, of Hawaii's 25th Infantry Division (Light). On April 10 the 2-503d Inf (Abn) took over responsibility for stability and support operations in the province of Zabul. (Photo courtesy of CJTF 76)

# Task Force Rock takes control in Zabul

By **Spc. Jon Arguello**  
*173d Brigade Public Affairs*

QALAT, Afghanistan—Vicenza's 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne), 173rd Airborne Brigade, is now firmly situated in its new home in Afghanistan.

On April 10, the 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, of Hawaii's 25th Infantry Division (Light), transferred authority of Zabul province in southeast Afghanistan to the 2-503d Inf (Abn).

Now deployed throughout the province, the battalion is fully involved in stability and support operations in this Afghan-Pakistan border province.

The battalion's road to deployment started in Vicenza when the 2-503d Inf (Abn) or Task Force Rock, as the battalion is now called, departed from Aviano Air Base in northern Italy in late March. From Aviano, the battalion's paratroopers took a commercial charter flight to Manas, Kyrgyzstan, where severe weather delayed onward movement.

Soldiers were held up in transition tents until U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster and C-130 Hercules transport aircraft could fly the Soldiers into Afghanistan for the battalion's second yearlong deployment in three years.

In a ceremony at the police headquarters in the provincial capital of Qalat on April 10, the Zabul provincial leadership welcomed Lt. Col. Mark Stammer, battalion commander of TF Rock, and said goodbye to the outgoing commander of the 2-35th Inf, Lt. Col. Scott McBride, 25th ID. The ceremony took place in front of a large crowd with the tribal elders of Zabul province in attendance.

Gov. Delbar Arma said that as much as he regretted losing McBride, he looked

forward to building as good a relationship with Lt. Col. Stammer, and that he knew there was still room for the relationship between the Afghan government and coalition forces to grow.

"It's incredible how well the 2-35th Inf established a working relationship with the Afghan leadership," said Stammer. "It's important that we build on this relationship. Cooperation is the foundation that Afghanistan and the Afghan people will build their young democracy on."

Stammer said by working together, the coalition and the Afghan government will improve security in the Zabul province.

"With security, we can look to the future and the tangible benefits the Afghan people so richly deserve," Stammer said. "We will build bridges between people torn apart by war and roads to the future."

Stammer also mentioned a top priority of both the Afghan government and coalition forces is the ability for Afghanistan to prosper independently – without coalition assistance – as well as the task force's goal of making Zabul Afghanistan's model province.

Although the ceremony took place in mid-April, the Rock has been extremely active since its arrival at Forward Operating Base Lagman April 2.

Both Battle and Chosen Companies are stationed here while they maintain smaller outposts in the northern part of the province.

The Soldiers of Able Company are stationed at FOB Sweeney, which is a four-hour drive southeast of Lagman in the Shinkay district.

Both Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) are in southern Afghanistan.

The battalion has been operating at a high tempo as it garners the institutional knowledge that the outgoing unit developed

over the course of a year.

"There is a lot of work involved with a relief in place like this," said Capt. Dave Rowland, the battalion's chief of operational plans. "It's not like having to build the base from scratch, but Soldiers have to transition into their jobs, sometimes learning processes different than they are used to, or using equipment they aren't familiar with. At the very least they have to get accustomed to the

new environment."

Of the 10-day relief-in-place operation, the first five days consisted of "right-seat-ride," where 2-503d Inf personnel rode along and observed the way 2-35 Inf operated. During the following five days, 2-503d Inf Soldiers jumped into the driver's seat for left-seat-ride, while 2-35 Inf leadership

See TF Rock on page 4

## Bell, Gravens visit Brigade Soldiers in Afghanistan



Gen. B.B. Bell talks with Soldiers from the 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne) during a stop at Firebase Lagman, Afghanistan. Among the Soldiers listening are (from left to right) 1st Sgt. Scott Brzak, Chosen Company, 2-503d, Sgt. 1st Class Victor Martinez and Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Krogh, Headquarters and Headquarters Company. (Photo courtesy of CJTF 76)

By **Combined Joint Task Force-76**  
*Public Affairs Office*

FIREBASE LAGMAN, Afghanistan—U.S. Army Europe commander, Gen. B. B. Bell, accompanied by USAREUR Command

Sgt. Maj. Michael Gravens, visited the paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade April 23 in southeast Afghanistan where they have assumed an area of operations comprising one quarter of the country.

See Bell on page 4



How are we doing?

# April force protection, safety addressed

Office of the Provost Marshal  
22nd Area Support Group

Recently, a member of the Caserma Ederle community expressed her concerns over the procedures in which the U.S. Military Police respond to off-post incidents and calls for assistance at off-post quarters (private and government).

Although there are provisions under Italian Law that restrict MP response to off-post locations, emergency calls for assistance (imminent danger) received by the MP desk sergeant will get immediate MP patrol response/assistance.

When emergency calls are received by the MP desk sergeant, he notifies the SETAF Carabinieri and requests their assistance.

If for some reason the SETAF Carabinieri are unable to respond, the desk sergeant will dispatch two MPs to the callers location.

Community members residing off-post can call the MP Desk directly at 0444-71-7233 or toll free at 800-064-077.

♦ Illegal parking, failure to obey posted stop signs, and speeding are serious infractions of the law on Caserma Ederle.

♦ There is more than ample parking at the post exchange, the shoppette, the Ederle Theater and the U.S. Army Health Clinic-Vicenza, but people continue to park illegally. Why?

The Provost Marshal has instructed strict law enforcement for these violations. Violators will be issued a DD Form 1408 and the appropriate points accessed to their SETAF driver’s license. Individuals who have 12 points accessed in a 12-month period or 18 points accessed in a 24-month period will have their SETAF driver’s license suspended.

♦ Vehicle break-ins have been on the rise

in the past two weeks. **The Provost Marshal reminds the community to never leave valuables in your POV**, lock your vehicle at all times, and engage alarm systems especially if your vehicle cannot be secured behind a gated area during the hours of darkness. Safe guard your valuables at all times. Security is everyone’s responsibility.

♦ Grocery carts may not be removed from the immediate area of the post exchange, shoppette, or the commissary.

♦ The main gate on Caserma Ederle is for vehicular traffic only. Individuals attempting to enter or exit by foot or bicycle will be denied entry/exit by the Military Police and directed to the appropriate Access Control Point, Gate #2, Vialle delle Pace.

## DA Form 1048s issued for April

Not wearing seatbelts:23  
Failure to stop at stop sign: 5  
Parking violations: 53  
Speeding: 7  
Misc. moving violations: 6

## April Statistics

Traffic accidents = 11 (injuries involved= 3)  
Drunk driving = 0  
Drunk & disorderly conduct = 1  
Assaults = 0  
Domestic disturbances = 0  
Lost ID Cards = 29  
(Repeat offenders= 6)

## Community Action Council

This forum is to discuss issues that affect the community.

If you have an issue that you would like to submit, visit the 22nd Area Support Group Web site at [www.22asg.vicenza.army.mil](http://www.22asg.vicenza.army.mil) and click on the Community Action Council link. This link provides you the opportunity to review issues that have been previously submitted and responded to by post agencies. There is also a form available for you to submit any new issue you would like addressed.

If you have any questions, call 634-5222 or 0444-71-5222 from off post. The command encourages you to identify yourself when submitting a CAC issue in order to be able to answer your concern directly.

Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$2.50 per hour, per child for children ages 6 weeks through kindergarten from 8:45-11:15 a.m. Preregistration is required. Children will be cared for in the Child Development Center, Building 395. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services Central Registration. Call 634-7219 or stop by their new location in Davis Hall.

The next CAC is May 25 at 9 a.m. in the Ederle Theater.

**Issue:** *I would like to know why getting ID’s made at the Golden Lion takes so long? If they have two people in the office why is only one actually processing IDs?*

**Response from the 510th Personnel Services Battalion:** The process of receiving a new Common Access Card has been lengthened recently due to uncontrollable circumstances. In the month of February, the waiting period became longer as we lost an employee. After a new employee was hired, the proper security clearance and access to the Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System had to be granted. This process takes two-three weeks. That meant one employee was able to perform all functions on the computer. A Soldier was sent from the 510th PSB to help elevate some of the influx of customers, unfortunately, the Soldier’s access to RAPIDS had been cancelled and needed to be restored. This situation could only be corrected by a Site Security Manager who worked at Aviano’s ID facility.

The Soldier was immediately sent to Aviano to correct this situation. Once the Soldier’s information was updated, there was a mandatory 24-hour waiting period for those certificates to take effect. Once again, the ID Cards section was working with one staff for another two days.

Also during this time the Pre-Deployment

Processing was active. Many Soldiers were mandated to get new CAC cards for different reasons, i.e. damage to the card, rank change, expiration dates. Many Soldiers had to update their personal information as well as dependent information before deployment. With the influx of personnel being serviced and the decrease in staff, the waiting times were increased for everyone.

If the proper documentation is provided, it normally takes 10-15 minutes per customer to make a CAC ID.

Sometimes there is connectivity with the system which delays the process. There are also times when another issue may arise while servicing a customer who needs a CAC ID and the operator would have to address the issue. Each customer’s situation may be different and the time it takes to make the ID card different.

In the future, the 510th PSB will be prepared to handle the lengthy process of hiring a new employee. We will be prompt to place a Soldier in the ID Cards section, should the need arise. The Soldier will be trained and knowledgeable on RAPIDS and the ID Cards publications.

**Issue:** *For those of us who work from 7 a.m.- 5 p.m., we are unable to mail packages during the business hours of the Post Office. They are open during lunch, but that is not always an easy time for some people. Since the deployment, the lines are getting even longer. Why can’t the post office be open until noon on Saturdays?*

**Response from 4th Platoon, 510th Postal Detachment:** The Vicenza Army Post Office is currently open a total of 31 hours per week, providing more customer service hours than USAREUR Quality of Life Standards dictate.

During the months of February and March, customers experienced longer waits than usual due to the deployment of SETAF and the 173d Airborne Brigade.

Being open on Saturday does not simply consist of clerks receiving mail in the finance window. Because of the regulations that govern mail, an opening would also require a minimum of two people to take all mail to Venice Airport, coordinating for a truck driver with 28th Transportation Platoon, funding overtime for civilians, and coordinating with 22nd Area Support Group for the Community Mail Room to be open.

Last spring, the APO was open on Saturdays for a trial basis for a period of six weeks. Less than 30 customers showed up on any given Saturday. As a result, the Saturday hours were discontinued as it was deemed not financially conducive to remain open.

We are currently looking at our hours and plan to extend customer service hours to 5 p.m. at least one day during the week.

# It all starts with God

*Chaplain’s note: For the next 40 weeks, the 22nd Area Support Group Chaplain’s Family Life Office, in partnership with deployed SETAF and 173d Airborne Brigade chaplains, will write a series of devotional articles based on the best-selling book, “A Purpose Driven Life,” by Rev. Rick Warren.*

*The intent of these articles is to offer deployed Soldiers and their families a devotional meditation, which you can use for weekly discussion and to, hopefully, deepen your spiritual connection during the separation.*

*Warren is the pastor of the Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., one of America’s largest churches. His book is a 40-chapter spiritual journey that seeks to transform your answer to life’s most important question: “What on earth are we here for?”*

*Knowing God’s purpose for creating you will reduce your stress, focus your energy, simplify your decisions, give meaning to your life, and, most importantly, prepare you for eternity. The book is a blueprint for living in the 21st Century – a lifestyle based on God’s eternal purposes, not cultural values.*

**By Chaplain (Maj.) Leon G. Kircher**  
22nd Area Support Group  
Family Life Chaplain

*“Unless you assume a God, the question of life’s purpose is meaningless.”*  
-Bertrand Russell, atheist

The search for meaning and purpose in life, especially when hard times come, is never ending. Right now many of you in the community are experiencing tough times. Soldiers who returned what seemed just a few months ago, are gone once more and families are again in the midst of separation; some for the second, third and even fourth time.

Family members are offered classes, seminars, and self help books to guide them through the deployment. Everything seems to center on how “I” can get through it. Popular culture, movies and TV all try to teach us how to discover life’s meaning or showcase people who have really “made it” in life.

Self-help gurus usually offer the same predictable steps to finding purpose in one’s life. Consider your dreams, set goals, aim high, be disciplined, and then just “go for it.” Sometimes it works if you put your mind to it. But as Warren says: “...being successful and fulfilling your life’s purpose are not at all the same issue! You can reach all your goals...and still miss the purposes for which God created you.” (pg. 19).

If we are to be successful in this life and able to endure tough times, we must realize that “***it’s not about us!***”

Philosophers and scientists over the centuries have debated the meaning of life. Why am **I** here? What purpose do **I** serve? How can **I** get through this? We focus on ourselves.

And here’s the key to Warren’s first chapter: “If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God. You were born by His purpose and for His purpose.” (pg. 17).

To most people, that kind of thinking is opposite from what is taught in today’s culture. Instead of the usual questions like, “How much money can I make?”, “What’s in it for me?”, “What can you do for me?”, “Why are all these bad things are happening to me?”, “How will I ever make it alone?”

A purpose driven life asks, “What can I do for you? “How can I be a better husband, wife, father or mother?” “How can I help this family member who is going through a tough week?” “How can I better serve God?” How do you discover your purpose in life? You can hope that philosophers or scientists will some day come up with the right answer to it all. It will still be a guess.

There is a better way, and that is through God’s revelation. God has revealed your purpose in this world through His book: the Bible.

You can begin to discover that true purpose by simply asking God. He is not the **starting** point for your life; He is the **source** of it. He’s not there to help you cram more things into an already full calendar; He is there to help you concentrate on what is most important, becoming what God created you to be.

Warren ends his first chapter with three insights that are key to discovering your purpose:

1. You discover your identity and purpose through a relationship with God.
2. Your life was planned by God before you existed, ***without your input!*** You may choose your career, your spouse and your hobbies, but God chose your purpose.
3. The purpose of your life fits into a much larger, cosmic purpose that God has designed for eternity.

I don’t know what you may be thinking about now, but to me, that makes all of you pretty special.

In God’s eyes, you’re worth it. You deserve the very best, because that’s what God wants for you.

As you go on about your daily activities this week, and maybe as you write or talk to your deployed loved one, consider this verse from Colossians 1: 16b, “Everything got started in Him and finds its purpose in Him.”

Then ask yourself, “How can I remind myself that life is really about living for God and not myself?”



# Island-born command sergeant major serves Soldiers in land-locked country



The many faces of SETAF’s Command Sgt. Maj. Iuniasolua Savusa, now the Combined Joint Task Force-76 command sergeant major.

Story and photos  
By Sgt. Tara Teel  
CJTF 76 Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - This command sergeant major, who was born on a small Pacific island, may be far from the water, but he is right at home serving in Afghanistan with his Soldiers.

Command Sgt. Maj. Iuniasolua Savusa, Combined Joint Task Force 76 command sergeant major, is from American Samoa, a group of six Polynesian islands in the South Pacific between New Zealand and Hawaii.

As a youth, Savusa passed his time swimming and ‘attempting’ sports from football to baseball. The only sport that spiked his interest was boxing.

“I enjoyed it because it was an individual sport and you didn’t have to depend on anyone,” he said. “You have to have the heart and mental capability to look into someone’s face knowing that only one of you was walking out of the ring.”

At the age of 17, with a signed wavier from his mother, Savusa enlisted in the Army, wanting to do his duty for his country and make something of himself.

“I joined to serve my country, to figure out what to do with my life, and who I was,” explained Savusa. “I just found it as the right place to be. There was discipline, camaraderie, structure and brotherhood.”

Savusa is not new to this country, or to deployments in general. He was deployed to Afghanistan from 2001 to 2002 as the

command sergeant major for Task Force Rakkasan, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) during Operation Enduring Freedom.

After that deployment, he deployed eight months later to Kuwait, and then to Iraq with the 3d Brigade, 187th Infantry Regiment (Rakkasan), 101st Airborne Division.

Combat is not new to him, either. While serving with the 101st in Iraq, the convoy he was with was ambushed. He grabbed a grenade, walked to within 30 yards of the treeline and tossed the grenade, killing two Iraqi fighters.

Savusa’s first deployment to Afghanistan is featured in a book that was recently published in the U.S. called, “Not A Good Day to Die” by Sean Naylor.

The book is about the U.S.’s first years in Afghanistan and the conflicts the military fought.

“I am honored to be mentioned in a book, but it was not my intent,” he said. “I did my job preparing Soldiers for the ultimate mission, and went with them into combat.”

Savusa said he is proud to serve our nation

and be productive. Productive for him is ensuring the welfare of the servicemembers is good, morale is up, food is delivered, and Soldiers are trained to do their jobs, which is ultimately to close with and destroy the enemy.

As command sergeant major, he describes his purpose as being available to the Soldiers.

He considers himself their spokesman and ensures they are trained to the standards in every task they are expected to perform.

“I listen to the servicemembers’ concerns and needs; see that the standard of living is up to standard; ensure they have, and are getting, the resources necessary; and reinforce the commanders’ guidance and intent for their missions in Afghanistan,” he said.

The command sergeant major has seen changes and upgrades in the quality of life throughout the country for servicemembers since the last time he was in Afghanistan. Now there are permanent structures for living, Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities and programs set up. The post exchanges are established and extensive.

“A lot has changed since the last time I was in Afghanistan,” Savusa said. “They have a president and a government that is not run by thugs, and organizations that oppress and take advantage of its own people.”

“We know the situation here has changed, but our mission is still to kill and capture Al Qaeda and associated political movements in the area,” he said. “It is also to help stretch the reach of the Afghan government to its people, build an infrastructure, and mentor the local officials in the skills necessary to successfully lead their people and keep them safe.

Like many other servicemembers, Savusa left a family behind when he deployed to Afghanistan. His spouse, Mareta, and their four children are in Italy going about their day-to-day business. As part of her role of the command sergeant major’s wife, she takes an active role in programs such as the Army Family Team Building, Army Family Action Plan, and many activities with the Family Readiness Groups.

“She makes my job a lot easier,” he said. “I am very grateful and lucky to have a spouse who is extremely supportive and active in the community, and steps up to fill my role when I am not there.”

Savusa will celebrate his 30th year of military service while in Afghanistan.

“There is no better place to spend it [his anniversary] than doing what you joined the Army to do, to fight our nation’s wars, and beside your Soldiers,” Savusa said.

*“I joined to serve my country, to figure out what to do with my life, and who I was,” explained Savusa. “I just found it as the right place to be. There was discipline, camaraderie, structure and brotherhood.”*

*– Iuniasolua Savusa  
Command Sgt. Maj. CJTF 76*

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# 2-503d Soldiers take charge

**Task Force Rock from page 1**  
remained behind to offer pointers and background information on the unique environment in Afghanistan, said Rowland.  
“The transition was challenging,” said Staff Sgt. Mark Flint, 2-503rd’s communications NCOIC. “But it went really smoothly, more so than I expected. There were some kinks, nothing ever goes perfect but overall, it went very smoothly.”  
The smooth transition was due to a lot of planning and training that took place over several rotations to Grafenwöhr and Hohenfels, Germany, in preparation for the brigade’s deployment. However, the transition is also attributable to an emphasis on high standards by the unit and chain of command.  
“From the time we jumped into the Rock,” said Flint referring to the battalion’s jump into Corregidor, nicknamed “the Rock,” during World War II, “this unit has

held up to really high standards. In a year from now, you’ll see some incredible changes just because we were here.”  
Beyond work, the Rock’s paratroopers have a transition of a more personal nature to go through.  
“It’s hard to be away from family for a year,” said Flint. “But there’s a bigger picture involved. We’re showing people in another part of the world that there is a different way to live. We are giving people new options. There are some rough times, but when you think about the fact that we are bringing the Afghan people choices they never had before, you see the bigger picture.”  
As hard as the transition may be, the paratroopers from the Rock seem to look forward to the challenge, and more importantly, have a deep appreciation of their roles in Afghanistan’s future and their own place in history.



2nd Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne) Soldiers step out of a C-130 Hercules at Kandahar Air Field in Afghanistan. (Photo courtesy of CJTF-76 Public Affairs)



## Bell, Gravens meet with Soldiers

**Bell from page 1**  
During the visit the men traveled to firebases Lagman and Sweeney, where the 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne) is conducting full spectrum operations to aid Afghan security forces and nurture the burgeoning democracy in Zabul province.  
During the general’s tour of Firebase Lagman, Battle Company, 2-503d Inf (Abn) rapidly assembled, boarded a CH-47 Chinook helicopter and immediately headed for Saygez. In less than an hour after receiving reports that Taliban had attacked a police station in the northern province, the Soldiers conducted an air assault mission in the province.  
**Left: Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffery Hof (right), 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Abn) command sergeant major, shows U.S. Army Europe Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Gravens (center) around the forward operating base in Orgun-E during his visit to the Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan. (Photo by Sgt. Tara Teel, CJTF-76 Public Affairs)**

As part of his visit, Command Sgt. Maj. Gravens traveled to Orgun-E to meet the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Abn) at their forward operating base in the Paktika province, and ended up spending the night with them because of bad weather.  
“It is always (great) to get out and visit the Soldiers and getting stuck over night was unexpected, but great,” said Gravens. “They continue to impress me with their sense of purpose and high spirits.”  
Upon arrival at the Orgun-E, Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffery Hof, 1-508th command sergeant major, gave Gravens and Command Sgt. Maj. Iuniasolua Savusa, Combined Joint Task Force-76 command sergeant major, a quick brief on their area of operation and their mission.  
Ending his journey, Cravens flew to FOB Laghman and then convoyed to the Qalat Provisional Reconstruction Team to meet with the Soldiers of the 2-503d Inf (Abn).  
*(Sgt. Tara Teel, CJTF-76 Public Affairs contributed to this article.)*

# Vicenza Health Clinic offers medical advice for visitors to Italy

**By Lt. Col. Ronald Keen**  
*Commander*  
*U.S. Army Health Clinic-Vicenza*

Are your loved ones, family members, friends, or others coming to visit you in Italy or planning on traveling here and making a stop in Italy? That’s great!  
One thing the staff U.S. Army Health Clinic-Vicenza wants to remind you of is to medically prepare your travelers coming from overseas.  
The Vicenza Health Clinic can ONLY see active duty military personnel, TRICARE beneficiaries, and Department of Defense employees who are based overseas.  
Below are some questions and answers to help you determine what to do should a family member or visitor need medical help:  
**Q. When a person who is NOT active duty military or a military dependent arrives in Italy and needs emergency medical care, which medical treatment facility should he/she go to?**  
A. They can go to the San Bortolo Hospital in Vicenza. There they will receive the very best emergency care possible.  
**Q. Is there a way to purchase insurance that covers one overseas prior to traveling to Italy or Europe?**  
A. Yes. Most insurance carriers offer International Health Care coverage, which you can add onto your policy to cover you while you travel abroad. Just ask your insurance company to ensure you are covered the entire time you are overseas.  
**Q. Does Medicare cover my loved ones over the age of 65 while overseas? A.**

Unfortunately, no. Medicare does not pay outside the United States. Purchasing international health care insurance is our best suggestion to ensure your loved ones are covered before they arrive.  
**Q. Even though I have purchased this international insurance, are there still out-of-pocket expenses to be paid at the time services are rendered?**  
A. Possibly, so keep all your receipts so you can file your claim for reimbursement once you are back in the States.  
**Q. If my loved ones are military retirees are they allowed care at the Vicenza Health Clinic?**  
A. On a space available basis – usually acute-based appointment. Routine care is discouraged because of lack of availability of support. That should all be taken care of in the States prior to arrival.  
**Q. What if a retiree needs a refill on their medications?**  
A. Please tell your loved ones to pack enough medications for their entire trip. We understand if medications get destroyed accidentally or if luggage is lost. It’s a good idea to always carry medications in their carry-on luggage. We will do our best to provide a courtesy refill depending on the medication. Many medications carried by pharmacies in the States are not stocked in our small pharmacy.  
**Q. What about patients not enrolled in TRICARE Prime in Vicenza?**  
A. All non-Prime TRICARE beneficiaries are advised that, effective March 1, the host nation providers will ask them to pay their admission costs upon discharge and the

outpatient services at the time of the service. This applies to: TRICARE Prime and Standard not residing in Europe; retirees and family members not residing in Vicenza; visiting parents, friends and other tourists.  
TRICARE beneficiaries should always contact their TRICARE office if they travel abroad for the most up-to-date advice.  
**Q. What should I do if my loved one loses their medication or forgets and is not a military beneficiary?**  
A. We have American-trained Italian physicians off post who speak excellent English are happy to see a loved one and prescribe medications to local pharmacies at reasonable charges.  
Contact Elisabetta Vidale in the Vicenza

Health Clinic’s TRICARE office at 634-8304 for some options available.  
**Q. What if my loved one needs a wheelchair or oxygen and is not a military or civilian beneficiary?**  
A. We have a number of supplies in ten local areas that can help. However, oxygen is considered a medication so they will need to see an Italian physician first.  
Remember that American equipment often will not fit Italian sources.  
The staff of the Vicenza Health Clinic is proud to serve our current active duty personnel and our TRICARE Prime beneficiaries as our top priority, followed by serving all others as our appointment system permits.



The ladies of the U.S. Army Health Clinic-Vicenza’s TRICARE office are available to help you with questions regarding medical benefits and information about what to do if a family member or friend visiting needs medical attention. Back row: Barb Bragiel, Elisabetta Vidale and Patrizia Lombardo. Front row: Gabriella Zocca, Amber Heston and Silvana Manente. (Photo by Diana Bahr, Outlook editor)



# Army Family Team Building reaches out to spouses

By Joy Chalmers  
Special to the Outlook

Just over 10 years ago, a group of dedicated Army volunteers initiated a grassroots effort to make families more “deployment ready” by getting Soldiers, spouses and civilians out of their homes and into the classroom.

After a decade of Army Family Team Building, commonly known as AFTB, the idea hardly seems radical. But at the time, directly following the Gulf War, the concept of using volunteer-driven education to create a better Army seemed an abstract notion at best.

These humble beginnings eventually became the comprehensive training program that AFTB is today: three separate levels of classes that teach community members everything from basic military protocol and acronyms to advanced communication and problem-solving skills. All classes focus on emphasizing personal and military preparedness.

But over the years, one thing has remained constant – volunteers are still the lifeblood of the organization, as almost every class is still taught by these unpaid instructors.

There is a fourth level of instruction, Instructor Training, that prepares students to lead the courses and teach others Army life skills over the course of three days of intensive study.

The course also includes a final individual presentation to a panel of AFTB instructors, as well as their peers.

The most recent AFTB Instructor Training was held April 18-20 in the Davis Family Readiness Center conference room. At the end of the three days, seven new instructors were certified in Vicenza.

Most of the new instructors were previous students of Vicenza’s AFTB program.

“I was first introduced to AFTB by my wife. She said it was something good to get involved in,” stated Philip Perez, recent Instructor graduate.

“I’m looking forward to giving students a different perspective. Maybe give it a little spice,” he added. “I am a stereotype-breaker and, hopefully, I am breaking down some barriers for male Army spouses. The rules have changed.”

Following the graduation ceremony, Cynthia Giesecke, the 22nd Area Support Group AFTB program manager, welcomed the newest graduates by relating how she was personally touched by the students’ continued dedication to AFTB.

“We are more than just instructors here,” she said to the graduates. “Please feel free to come to any of the AFTB volunteers with any issues you have, class-related or personal. We are like a big family.”

With that succinct statement, Giesecke resonated the very idea that AFTB was founded on: making students a part of the Army family on a personal level.

Next AFTB Class offered is Level II, May 10-12, from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. Contact Giesecke at 634-8526 to register, or for more details.



Congratulations to the recent Army Family Team Building Instructor training participants and staff. The class was held in Vicenza from April 18-20. Pictured, from left: Philip Perez, Mary Anderson, Terrilee Davis, Stephanie Fitzpatrick, Annette Evans, Joy Chalmers, Jolly Miller, Kelly Walker, Janine Smith and Cynthia Giesecke. AFTB Instructor Training graduates not pictured: Nia Hunter and Jennifer Kirby



On March 24, an Army Family Team Building Level I “Boot Camp” class was held and the majority of attendees were first year spouses. There are also international spouses involved from Czech Republic, Africa, Russia and Guam. From left to right are: Karen Settle, Selma Coles-Bacco, Ivana Leininger, Irene Agyei-Mensa, Maria Salvat, Sally Quigg, Elena Walker, Jessica Chowning, Margareth Machin, and Philip Perez.

## Family Advocacy Program events seek to educate community on programs, services

Story and photo  
By Laura Kreider  
Outlook Staff

The Family Advocacy Program has been busy getting information out to family members on Caserma Ederle.

To celebrate April’s Month of the Military Child, FAP set up information booths at the post exchange’s food court where they had brochures about the various programs offered.

Also on site were officers from the Military Police Investigations section who made child

identification kits for community children. At least 50 children had their fingerprints taken.

“Most of the children really had fun with it,” said 22nd Area Support Group Provost Marshal Office investigator Danielle Bruschi. “After they had their fingerprints and photos taken, we allowed all the children to pick any prize from the D.A.R.E officer.”

On hand was the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E) Lion who posed for photos with the children.

FAP finished out the Month of the Military Child with a “Walk and Talk” for the community and

their pets.

Family Advocacy’s Annual Walk and Talk is designed to get families and neighbors out and talking to each other and to learn about the resources available to them in the community.

A different community agency is at each booth that the family stops at. Each booth as a question that families ask each other and can pick up information as well as free prizes.

The event gives families the chance to learn fun and interesting facts about each other that they did not know before, like if you could be any animal what would you be? Or, who do you admire and why?

During the event, Family Child Care staff served up free ice cream for participants and had homemade treats available for the four-legged walkers.

For information about the Family Advocacy Program, the classes and services FAP offers, call 634-5997.



Above: A child has her fingerprints taken by 22nd ASG Provost Marshal Office investigator Danielle Bruschi during the Family Advocacy Program information booth held at the post exchange April 13. At right: Tamara Denny’s pooch, Pebbles, gets a taste of ice cream during FAPs Walk and Talk held April 23. (Photo by Diana Bahr, Outlook editor)



## Caserma Ederle celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage month

By Megan Gafford  
Special to the Outlook

April showers bring May flowers, and along with it Asian Pacific Heritage month. Originally, two bills were passed to set aside the first 10 days of May to celebrate Asian Pacific heritage, and on Oct. 5, 1978 President Jimmy Carter signed a resolution that confirmed the springtime celebration. However, the entire month of May wasn’t designated for Asian Pacific heritage until President George H. W. Bush expanded the initial 10 days in May 1990.

May was chosen to celebrate Asian Pacific heritage for a myriad of reasons.

The immigration of the first Japanese to the United States was May 7, 1843. Most of the workers who laid the tracks for the transcontinental railroad were Chinese, which was completed May 10, 1869.

During the month of May, communities all over America,

and in parts of the world, will hold events to honor Asian Pacific heritage.

The theme for this year’s celebrations is “Freedom for All-A Nation We Call Our Own.”

The Equal Opportunity and Equal Employment Opportunity offices have several events scheduled to celebrate the contributions to society made by Asian Pacific Americans. The events include:

May 12 and 19, the South of the Alps dining facility will be serving up special Asian-influenced dishes.

May 19, the Caserma Ederle community will celebrate Asian Pacific Heritage Month at the Teen Center and Youth Pavilion with food, entertainment, cooking demonstrations, and more.

May 21, the post exchange offers an outdoor Cultural Celebration in the PX parking lot, and May 24 the post exchange presents “Dances from the Philippines.”



A little girl shows off a Japanese paper fan to her parents during Asian Pacific American Heritage festivities held at the Ederle Theater last year. (Outlook file photo)



# Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

### Mothers Day

In Italy, *Festa della Mamma* (Mother’s Day) is celebrated on the same day as in the U.S., which is this Sunday.

Most children here in Italy remember their mothers with flowers and special dinners.

Find the stores full of gift ideas, large or small and restaurants/pizzerias on that day will be fully booked.

### Festa della Sensa

The *Festa della Sensa* in Venice will be held Sunday. This centuries-old event has the significance in which Venice, the city of lagoons, marries the sea.

This year’s program will include a Sunday morning procession on the water with flag-bearers at 10:30 a.m., followed by the arrival of the procession and the ‘wedding ceremony’ across from the Church of San Nicolo di Lido. In the wedding ceremony the mayor of the city throws a ‘ring,’ which is a crown of laurels, into the sea.

In the afternoon, there will be a regatta of four-oar gondolas.

### Markets

**Vicenza:** Sunday, in the squares of Piazza Castello, Piazza dei Signori and Piazza Biade, the monthly antique market take place. More than 200 stalls will be set up from sunup to sundown.

**Venice:** Visit an antiques market and a flea-market held non-professionals.

The Market of the Miracoli is the only example of antiques and second-hand market with sale of books, comics, prints and other objects for collectors entirely organized by non professionals.

It is held in the campi and campielli close to one of the most astonishing churches of Venice, the Church of the Miracles.

While browsing in the market, visit this church, built between 1481 and 1489 on the basis of a design by Pietro Lombardo.

The church hosted an image of the *Vergine Tra Due Santi* (Virgin Between Two Saints) produced in 1408, which people said performed miracles and, over time, became an object of profound devotion.

The external facade of the church is decorated with marble

polychromy with fake arches and a gallery.

The interior is composed of just one nave with a bold staircase which leads to the alter, where you can see the beauty of the statues, the marble and the architecture of Pietro Lombardo. The ceiling is wooden and was made in the 16th century, while the walls and the floors are decorated with colored marble and bas-reliefs.

### Venice Naval exhibition

The appeal of wooden boats will be the focus of the exhibition-market “*Navalis*,” which is being held at the Venice Arsenal.

The most important shipbuilders in the industry will be represented at this exhibition, alongside craftsmen and carpenters, motor and sailboats all to give the visitor a full view of the national cultural and economic significance of wooden boats.

The expo will also show a wide array of products and technology available on the market today and on the handcrafted and industrial activities tied to the manufacture and restoration of wooden boats.

The exhibition offers the option to buy, sell – or at least admire – used traditional wooden boats and to buy hard-to-find pieces from the Boat Antiques and Art Show and Market. This expo will be joined this year with a section dedicated to the ‘Mediterranean diet’, which will provide cooking ideas and free samples.

The exhibition is open Sunday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Entrance fee is 11 euro for adults; no charge for children under age 10.

### Trieste marathon

Trieste’s marathon is one of the city’s major events. The marathon is run Sunday along the area’s panoramic roads and is considered one of the finest races in Europe.

In addition to the marathon, there are two additional events that are open to professionals and certified athletes. These are the non-competitive marathon and the panoramic walk, all of which start from different places in the city.

Last year, the three events together had a record 9,500 participants.

Visit the Web site: [www.bavisela.it](http://www.bavisela.it) for details.

### Giro d’Italia Bike race

The 88th *Giro d’Italia* will produce one of the most exciting finales in recent years.

The race starts May 7 in Reggio Calabria, in the south of Italy, and works north.

In the final week of the Giro are four mountain stages – two in the Dolomites and two in the Alps.

The two hardest stages will be in the Dolomites, and feature *Passo Pordoi* and the *Passo Stelvio*, which at 2,758 meters, is the highest point of the 2005 Giro.

After the Dolomites the riders spend two transitional stages before they have to face up to two Alpine stages. The first Alpine stage is a mountain top finish to Limone Piemonte followed by a mountain stage to the Alpine ski station of Sestriere.

You can catch the riders in the Veneto area on May 18 on the stretch of 212 km from Ravenna – Rossano Veneto or on May 19 on the stretch of 150 km from Marostica to Zoldo Alto.

The race finishes on May 29 in Milan. The race will also be televised.

### International Iris competition

During May, those gardeners who can, flock from all over the world to Florence’s Piazzale Michelangelo, as the renowned Giardino dell’*Iris Iris Garden* opens its gates to the public and hosts the International Iris competition.

In the competition, individual blooms are judged on the basis of their color, shape, aroma and resistance to various diseases.

A special prize goes to the specimen which most closely resembles the Iris in the coat of arms of the Florence.

Even if you’re not passionate about flowers it should be a refreshing vigorous splash of early summer color in a beautiful city such as Florence.

The gardens are open to the public everyday from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 3-7 p.m. through May 20. Entrance is free.

## Summer hire gives youth money to go Out & About

**Submitted by Vicenza CPAC Press Release**

The Vicenza Civilian Personnel Advisory Center is accepting applications for the 2005 Summer Hire Program.

The program runs June 27 through Aug. 5 and the salary is \$5.14 per hour.

Jobs are available in the areas of

clerical, labor, and child development work.

Requirements include:

- Must be a family member between the ages of 14 and 22.
- Participants must age 14 by June 27, and cannot reach their 23rd birthday before the program ends Aug. 5.
- You must be a U.S. citizen to apply for positions in Italy.

- Summer Hires employed in child development positions must be at least 16 years old.

Vacancy announcements, a web-based application form, and instructions are available on the Civilian Human Resource Agency-Europe Web site at [www.chra.eur.army.mil](http://www.chra.eur.army.mil) through May 13. For more information, contact the CPAC at 634-6645 or 634-7266.

## Now Showing

### Caserma Ederle Theater

|              |                          |         |
|--------------|--------------------------|---------|
| <b>May 4</b> | The Aviator (PG13)       | 7 p.m.  |
| <b>May 5</b> | The Aviator (PG13)       | 7 p.m.  |
| <b>May 6</b> | Robots (PG)              | 7 p.m.  |
|              | Constantine (R)          | 10 p.m. |
| <b>May 7</b> | Because of Winn-Dixie PG | 2 p.m.  |
|              | Hitch (PG13)             | 7 p.m.  |
|              | Robots (PG)              | 10 p.m. |
| <b>May 8</b> | Robots (PG)              | 2 p.m.  |
|              | Hitch (PG13)             | 7 p.m.  |

### Camp Darby Theater

|              |                   |        |
|--------------|-------------------|--------|
| <b>May 6</b> | The Pacifier (PG) | 7 p.m. |
| <b>May 7</b> | Hike and Seek (R) | 7 p.m. |

### Movie Synopsis

**THE AVIATOR** - *Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett.* A snapshot in the life of of the legendary Howard Hughes as he begins to direct the 1930 film “Hell’s Angels” starring Jean Harlow. Hughes’ obsession with perfection in the aerial sequences spurs him to extreme lengths, such as waiting interminably for perfect conditions, right down to cloud formations.

**ROBOTS** (*Animated with voices of Ewan McGregor, Halle Berry, Robin Williams*). Rodney Copperbottom is an idealistic robot who wants to convince his electronic brethren to come together and work toward making the world a better place. As the story unfolds, he falls for a female executive robot, faces opposition from an evil corporation headed by Big Weld and finds some unlikely allies in the form of a ragtag group of misfit robots called the Rusties.

**CONSTANTINE** - *Keanu Reeves, Rachel Weisz.* Based on the DC-Vertigo comic book “Hellblazer”, Renegade occultist John Constantine has literally been to hell and back. He teams up with skeptical policewoman Angela Dodson to solve the mysterious suicide of her twin sister.

**BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE** - *Jeff Daniels, Cicely Tyson.* A 10-year-old girl, abandoned by her mother when she was three, moves to a small town in Florida with her father, a preacher. She also adopts a stray dog whom she names after the local supermarket where she finds him. With her goofy pooch by her side, she meets an eclectic group of townspeople, and re-kindles an almost lost relationship with her father.

**HITCH** - *Will Smith, Eva Mendes.* Most men have difficulty finding love because it’s hard to be yourself. That’s where Alex “Hitch” Hitchens comes in. Alex is a “date doctor” who claims to be able to find customers their perfect romantic match in three dates or less. Sara, meanwhile, is a gossip reporter for a daily tabloid who decides to write an expose on Hitch’s condescending methods, making Hitch re-evaluate his game, and rethink love in the process.

**HIDE AND SEEK** - *Robert DeNiro, Dakota Fanning.* As a widower tries to piece together his life in the wake of his wife’s suicide, he discovers that his young daughter is coping with the death in a strange and scary manner. His daughter, Emily, finds solace by creating a creepy, maniacal imaginary friend with a terrifying vendetta. Imaginary friends can seem so real...

**THE PACIFIER** - *Vin Diesel, Brad Garrett.* An undercover agent fails to protect an important government scientist and then agrees to look after the man’s five out-of-control kids when they are suddenly thrust into danger. Now, he’s finding what tough really is when he pits his combat skills against diapering, den-mothering and drivers education.

Admission: Adults age 12 and over \$4, children \$2.  
The Ederle Theatre box office opens one hour prior to show time.  
Tickets to blockbuster shows are presold at Baskin Robbins.

## How to help MWR help you

**Submitted by 22nd ASG MWR Marketing Division**

To better provide the Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs community members want, the 22nd Area Support Group is participating in the Army-wide 2005 MWR Leisure Needs Survey.

The purpose of the survey is to obtain valuable information about customer leisure time activities, and use and satisfaction with MWR facilities and programs.

Survey data is used in program planning and decision-making to improve the MWR activities that are important to quality of life in the community.

Soldiers and civilian employees

selected through random sampling distribution will receive a survey through their unit or workplace. The survey will be mailed directly to spouses and military retirees.

Survey respondents will have the option to take the MWR Leisure Needs Survey in the traditional paper survey format or online through a secure Web site.

If selected to participate, community members are urged to take advantage of this opportunity to voice their opinion on Army MWR.

All survey responses are anonymous and confidential.

Further information on Army MWR is available at the Web site: [www.armymwr.com](http://www.armymwr.com).



# Community Events

## History of America revealed by Soldiers' Theatre season finale

Story and photo by Laura Kreider  
*Outlook Staff*

Soldiers' Theatre presents 'The Complete History of America (Abridged)', a zany 90-minute history lesson that will leave you rolling with laughter and wondering how on earth our country has lasted this long, according to Allen R. Ebert, Vicenza Soldiers' Theatre Entertainment Director. "This is a very funny show and will be the last show of the season until September 2005," he said.

Ebert explains that the Soldiers' Theatre season finale interprets the past as a breathlessly-paced sequence of silly vaudeville sketches, word-association games, puns and crude parodies of movie and television genres. "Nothing is sacred, and many of the facts have been skewed to suggest the paranoid ravings of a particularly loony tabloid. It's hysterically historical! So bring some diapers because this show is pee your pants funny," he highlighted.

Starring Vicenza's own Missy Hiles, Arlene O'Connor and Adriane Zambrana, the show tackles such controversial questions as: Who really discovered America? Why did Abe Lincoln free the slaves? How many Democrats does it take to screw in a lightbulb?

Evening performances are 7 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, May 13 and 14, and one matinee performance Sunday at 2 p.m. Material is ideal for ages 12 and older (we wouldn't want to corrupt young minds with our twisted history lesson). Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for youth and \$6 per ticket for groups of 10 or more. To purchase tickets stop by Soldiers' Theatre between noon and 6 p.m., or call the Soldiers' Theatre reservation hotline at 634-7755 or 0444-71-7755 to reserve Will Call tickets.



From left to right, Adriane Zambrana, Missy Hiles and Arlene O'Connor perform during a dress rehearsal of 'The Complete History of America (Abridged)' a hilarious satire held at Soldiers' Theatre April 27. The show opens Wednesday at 7 p.m. and runs through Saturday, with additional performances May 13 and 14. A special matinee is scheduled for Sunday at 2 p.m.



## Exceptional Volunteers lauded

The Vicenza military community Volunteer Recognition ceremony was held April 25, with the theme "Volunteers Inspire by Example." Following a brief address by Col. Donald Drummer, 22nd Area Support Group commander, where he praised the volunteers for their selfless service to the community, presentations were made to the 17 community members who were chosen as Exceptional Volunteers for 2005.



**Darby Beach Splash 2005**  
By Bill Carpenter  
*Camp Darby MWR*

The annual Darby Beach Splash, held April 22, lets the community brush off the winter blues and catch a glimpse of the glorious summer that is to come. The Darby Community Club was

transformed into a tropical oasis for the day, and an estimated 200 persons attended the event.

Dress for the day was Hawaiian shirts and sun hats, along with a selection of tropical exotic frozen drinks to wet the appetite.

The "Splash" offered plenty of fun for both adults and children, with two large inflatable games outside for the kids to play on. Adults could purchase a seasonal cabana or umbrella rental, or for the more adventurous, sign up for scuba lessons.

The American Beach at Camp Darby opens a week early this year, May 22, instead of the traditional Memorial Day weekend time. Details will be announced in the *Darby Horizons* and the *Outlook*.

**Right: Darby Beach Splash 2005 offered community children plenty of fun with inflatable slides and other activities.**

